

EXHIBIT G

Toro Deposition

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| UNITED STATES OF AMERICA | : |
| | : |
| Plaintiff | : |
| | : |
| v. | : CIVIL NO. 98-1664 (CCC) |
| | : CIVIL NO. 98-2344 (CCC) |
| 33,92536 ACRES OF LAND, MORE | : |
| OR LESS, SITUATED IN VEGA BAJA, | : |
| COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO, | : |
| AND JUAN PIZA BLONDET, AND | : |
| UNKNOWN OWNERS | : |
| | : |
| Defendants | : |
| | : |

DEPOSITION OF:

JULIO TORO McCOWEN

was taken on April 7, 2006 at the offices of the UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO, Torre Chardon, Chardon Avenue, Hato Rey, Puerto Rico, commencing at 9:38 a.m.

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1 these years have been interrupted either by graduate
2 studies or work in other agencies and in the United
3 States.

4 Q When did you begin working where you are
5 working now before 1992?

6 A Before '92, well from '88 to '92 I worked as
7 the Director of Operations of the Solid Waste Authority.

8 Q What does your division do, basically?

9 A We review and evaluate applications to extract
10 materials from the earth's crust, including bodies of
11 water like rivers and lakes and the sea.

12 Q From '92 to '98, you were basically working in
13 the same thing that you're working in now?

14 A Approximately from '93 to March of '97.

15 Q From '92 to '93, what was your job?

16 A I was the assistant to the -- No, I'm sorry,
17 wait. Ninety two?

18 Q Yes.

19 A From '92 to '93 I was in the division of
20 Technical Assessment.

21 Q What did you do there?

22 A We would advise other divisions of the
23 department and the general public, the Secretary
24 directly, in the subject of natural resources' issues

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1 go to your office in '97 and everything is there, how
2 long would it take?

3 A It varies from case to case.

4 Q What is the minimum would you say that it
5 would take? Days, months?

6 A A pretty long time, months. It could take up
7 to years.

8 Q So it can take basically months? When you say
9 months, you mean like two to three months?

10 A More than that.

11 Q Five, six?

12 A I can't be specific about an exact number.

13 Q Would it be possible to get a permit and when
14 I say, I'm talking only that moment, when I say to get a
15 permit, I'm referring to that moment, '97, was it
16 possible at that time to get a permit in three months?

17 A A formal permit?

18 Q A formal permit meaning if all the documents
19 were correct and there.

20 A Extremely difficult.

21 Q Possible?

22 A When the Secretary issues an order of a
23 specific case that awards that kind of decision.

24 Q So the answer is basically yes?

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1 like flora, fauna and ecology.

2 Q It was basically the environment?

3 A It is the Department of Environmental and
4 Natural Resources, yes.

5 Q Okay. What is a formal permit for sand
6 extraction?

7 A A formal permit for sand extraction is an
8 authorization that is awarded by the state to extract
9 sand in a private land or in land that is of public
10 domain.

11 Q And that includes any crust of the earth,
12 including sand?

13 A Exactly and different kinds of sand.

14 Q Okay. And you would include there silica
15 sand?

16 A Definitely, yes.

17 Q Let's go back to 98. I think you said you
18 left in '97?

19 A Yes.

20 Q How much time, average, would it take to
21 approve a permit back in '97, '98 or before?

22 A It's very difficult to answer that because it
23 varies enormously.

24 Q If all the documents are correct, let's say I

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1 MR. TAPICK: Object to the form.

2 THE DEPONENT: It is not normal for it to come
3 out in two or three months unless the Secretary gives a
4 specific order.

5 EXAMINATION CONTINUED

6 BY MR. PIZA:

7 Q So basically it varies from case to case?

8 A That is so.

9 Q But it is a possibility?

10 A Of course it is.

11 Q What documents did you bring with you today?

12 A I brought the new regulations, the regulation
13 that was in effect at that time, some documents and
14 letters from prior public servants related to cases
15 about Mr. Piza Blondet in the Guarico Sector of the
16 Yeguada Barrio Vega Baja, the last denial that was
17 issued from the Arecibo Regional Office that was issued
18 February 20, 2006 to Mr. Juan Piza Blondet, a letter
19 from the Munphrey Law Firm, the documents of the U.S.
20 District Court, internal memos from the division of 1989
21 related to Mr. Piza's cases, internal memo from 1989,
22 letters from interim regional directors of 1989, letter
23 from the Fish and Wildlife Service related to species
24 that are in danger of extinction, in a place where Mr.